Remarks

Claims 1, 2, 11 and 12 have been amended. Claims 16 and 17 have been added.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 1-3, 10-13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Seong patent (US Patent No. 6,785,720 B1). With respect to applicant's claims, as amended, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's independent claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the present invention. Independent claim 1 now recites a communication control apparatus comprising: a first port which connects to a first segment of a network; a second port which connects to a second segment of the network; a CIP header detecting unit adapted to detect whether or not an isochronous packet received by said first port includes a CIP (common isochronous packet) header conforming to IEC 61883 standard; and a control unit adapted to determine, using the CIP header included in the isochronous packet received by said first port, whether to disable relaying the isochronous packet received by said first port to said second port, if it is detected by said CIP header detecting unit that the isochronous packet received by said first port includes the CIP header. Independent claim 11 has been similarly amended.

Such a construction is not taught or suggested by Seong. More particularly, the Examiner has argued with respect to the Seong patent as follows:

> "4. . . . .
>   a.. . . Seong disclosed a communication control apparatus . . . comprising: . . . a control unit adapted determine, using the CIP header, whether or not to allow relaying the isochronous packet received by said first port to said second port, if it is detected by said CIP header detecting unit that the isochronous packet received by said first port includes the CIP header (column 5, lines 47-67: OPCR to control the channel)."

The Examiner has further argued with respect to applicant's previous response as follows:

5

"... Examiners has found that Seong discloses (column 1, line 46-column 2, line 10) an art using IEC 61883 over IEEE 1394 in providing connection management; IEC 61833 specifies IPCR and OPCR to perform connection management between digital devices; IEC 61833 defines common isochronous packet header structure. Applicant has further argues that does not teach 'a control unit adapted determine, using the CIP header, whether or not to allow relaying the isochronous packet received by said first port to said second port, if it is detected by said CIP header detecting unit that the isochronous packet received by said first port includes the CIP header'. Examiner has updated the rejection as above and believe the cited reference does show applicant argued limitations."

.... As it is Applicant's right to claim as broadly as possible their invention, it is also Examiner's right to interpret the claim language as broadly as possible. It is the Examiner's position that the detailed functionality that allows for Applicant's invention to overcome the prior art used in the rejection, fails to differentiate in detail how these features are unique (see item a in section 4) As the claimed invention seems to draw a direct interpretation what is to be done according to and thus conforming industrial standards as applied to the specific application. The cited prior art has also shown all limitation as claimed. ... It is suggested that Applicant compare the original specification and claim language with the cited prior art used in the rejection section above or the Remark section below to draw an amended claim set to further the prosecution."

Applicant has considered the Examiner's extensive comments and, as the Examiner has suggested, has also reviewed the specification and claims with respect to what is taught in the Seong patent. Applicant furthermore has amended applicant's claims to better distinguish over this patent. In particular, the control unit in claim 1 is now recited as "a control unit adapted to determine, using the CIP header included in the isochronous packet received by said first port, whether to disable relaying the isochronous packet received by said first port to said second port, if it is detected by said CIP header detecting unit that the isochronous packet received by said first port includes the CIP header." Likewise, method claim 11 now requires "determining, using the CIP header included in the isochronous packet received by the first port, whether to disable relaying the isochronous packet received by the first port to the second port, if it is detected in the detecting step that the isochronous packet received by the first port includes the CIP header."

6

The above features of applicant's control unit and determining step are described in applicant's specification at page 15, line 21 through page 17, line 11. They are also shown in the flow chart of FIG. 5. These portions of the application disclose that if it is detected that a CIP headed is included in a isochronous packet received at a first port, then a determination of whether to disable relaying the isochronous packet to a second port is made using the CIP header. Thus, the presence of the CIP header causes the determination to be made.

It is simply not evident to applicant that in the OPCR control of a channel described in the Seong patent at column 5, lines 47-67, it is detection of the CIP header in an isochronous packet that results in a determination of whether to transfer the packet from one port to another. Likewise, there is no disclosure that there be a determination of disabling transfer if a CIP header is detected.

Applicant's appreciate that the Examiner can interpret the applicant's claim language as broadly as possible, but even doing so, lines 47-67 of column 5 of the Seong patent make no mention of a CIP header being used for connection control. Instead, these lines state, in part, "The OPCR includes information (A/NA) showing whether the server device outputs data to the IEEE 1394 bus and a channel number (CH No.) when the server device outputs data to the IEEE 1394 bus. If it is noted from the information A/NA on the state of the server device that the state of the server device is active by reading the OPCR of the server device (step **830**), the channel number (CH No.) of the server device is read out, the CH No. is recorded on the input plug control register IPCR, and the connection to the server device is performed (step **840**). When the state of the server device is inactive, it is checked whether the selection of the server device to be connected to is to be canceled (step **850**) at predetermined time intervals. When the selection is

7

canceled, the process is terminated. When the selection is not canceled, the step **820** is performed."

Thus, connection to a server device in the Seong patent depends on the A/NA information, which provides information on the active or inactive state of the server, and not on the CIP header. Applicant's claims clearly recite the CIP header and not A/NA information, and cannot be reasonably construed any other way. Moreover, these lines of the Seong patent teach connection to the server if the A/NA information indicates the server is active, and stopping of the process if the A/NA information indicates the server is inactive. These is nothing stated as to determining to disable transfer or connection to the server based on the A/NA information.
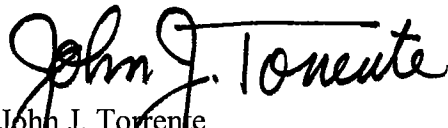
For all the above reasons, applicant's amended claims 1 and 11, and their respective dependent claims, are believed to patentably distinguish over the Seong patent.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicant's claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

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8